Form 8-K December 17, 2015 **UNITED STATES** SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549 FORM 8-K **CURRENT REPORT** Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the **Securities Exchange Act Of 1934 December 17, 2015** Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. (Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter) State of New York 1-10113 11-0853640 (State of Other Jurisdiction (Commission File Number) (I.R.S. Employer of Incorporation) Identification Number)

616 N. North Court, Suite 120

ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC

Palatine, Illinois 60067
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)
(847) 705-7709
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)
Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):
"Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
"Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17CFR 240.14a-12)
"Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17CFR240.14d-J(b))
"Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17CFR 240.13e-L(c))

Item 8.01 Other Events

On December 17, 2015 we issued a press release announcing that we are advancing our lead LIMITXTM oral abuse deterrent drug candidate using the opioid hydromorphone HCl (LIMITX Hydromorphone) into clinical testing and that we expect to submit an Investigation New Drug Application (IND) to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) before the end of 2015, which IND will become effective 30-days after submission unless questioned by the FDA. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

Exhibit Number Description

99.1 Press Release dated December 17, 2015

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

ACURA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

By:/s/ Peter A. Clemens
Peter A. Clemens
Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

Date: December 17, 2015

Exhibit Index

Exhibit Number Description

99.1 Press Release dated December 17, 2015